

AP-ELP

ELP Appliance

Installation and User Guide

Version 8.8.18



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Introduction

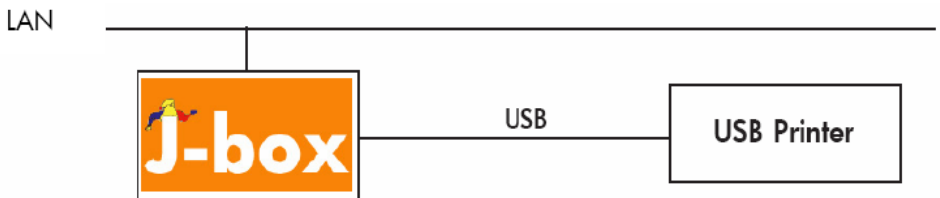
Box connection methods

It happens quite often that the developer's community can't deliver solutions for entry-level devices, and in most cases this is a limit against the competitors. The idea is an open platform where developers can write their own application and release it for all printer brands: that's the AP-ELP Box.

The AP-ELP Box is a hardware device that allows developing solutions for all printer brands. This box is Linux based and can be installed in a LAN; it can be connected to a printer or it can forward the data to another LAN printer. In both cases the product has the bidirectional support.

The AP-ELP Box can be used in two different ways: as a print server for a USB connection or as a LAN re-router; the application installed will transform data and send it to the target device.

AP-ELP Box as print server



AP-ELP Box as re-router



The AP-ELP Box uses the standard Linux Operating System Version 2.4.31. So new requested features can be easily built in, or the box can be purchased as a stand alone product for developers.

Features

This is the integration of the base hardware AP-ELP Box with the software ELP developed by stethos GmbH, Germany, www.stethos.com/ap-elp

stethos Enhanced Laser Printing System (ELP) is an intelligent, modular, scalable and very efficient Output Management System. ELP offers different possibilities to enhance and modify the printer data stream without interfering in existing processes.

ELP is a high level scalable product including rule based printing and AP-ELP Box supports the complete Linux supported features. ELP does provide printer emulation, data conversion, forms and printer capabilities management.

Here a list of the major functionalities, supported in the J-ELP implementation:

- **Search and replace (or delete or add)** function offers a simple manipulation of the print data stream (PCL5, but PCL6 and Postscript as well). This allows the selective usage of forms and the correction of inappropriate print commands in the source data stream.
- **Rule based printing.** All functions can be activated or deactivated setting a theoretical indefinite amount of rules, based upon the printer data stream
- **Soft flash:** automatic use of static electronic forms as overlays for usage within PCL 5x macro escape commands.
- **Print management** with stapling, forms overlays, Watermarks, in/out tray definitions, simplex, duplex, stapling and much more. Definable for each page or a set of pages, like form – to or left and right handed pages,
- **Tray mapping** allows the remapping of paper trays using existing tray pull commands.
- **Variable management:** ELP controlled print e.g. date and time stamp or user name/document name on the printout. Additional values such as invoice numbers can be found using the 'search' capability and then stored for logging purposes.
- **Barcode** for all well known one dimensional and two dimensional codes (PCL5 and PostScript)
- Support for **OMR codes** for mail inserter from Stielow, Hefter, Neopost and PFE.
- **Simplex or duplex** prints from different input trays with pre-printed or pre-punched paper.
- **Report line generator** which prints reading lines (like formerly seen on z-fold continuous paper used on dot-matrix printers) PCL raster compression mode 8 (fax group 4)
- **Emulations** like Prescribe, PPDS, Epson, PGL, VGL, etc.

AP-ELP installation

Connect the LAN cable (and USB in case of usage as print server). Once the LAN and USB cable is installed, connect the external power supply delivered with the product and check if the power LED goes on.



AP-ELP configuration

LAN setting DHCP mode with MS Windows

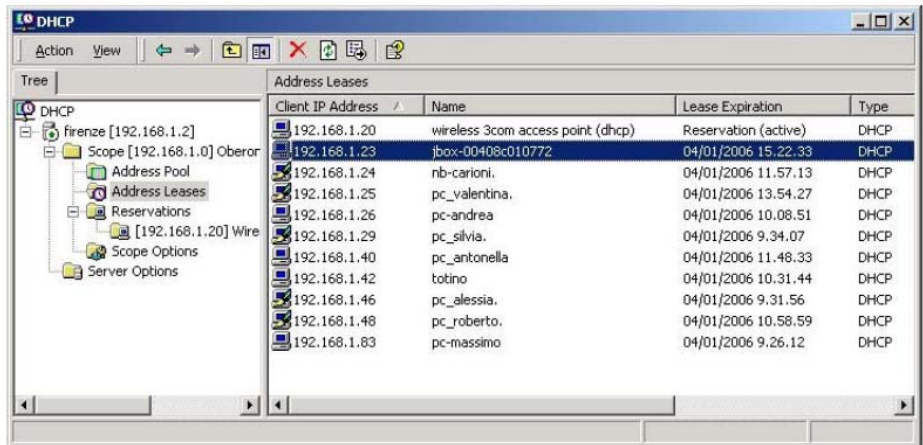
AP-ELP has different ways to setup the IP address depending on the operating system and the LAN environment. AP-ELP comes as default in DHCP mode: when AP-ELP Box is connected to the LAN, the DHCP Server will assign automatically a valid IP address; on the bottom side of the box you'll find a label with the unique MAC address of the box. In order to verify the IP address that the DHCP Server assigned to AP-ELP Box you have two possibilities: checking on DHCP Server or using an ARP command.

To verify the IP addresses at the DHCP server please follow these instructions:

- log in on DHCP Server
- look in the Address Leases
- look on the right windows and identify the name of AP-ELP in this format

J-Box-00408c010772

where J-Box is the suffix of the MAC Address of relevant AP-ELP Box. Identify the MAC address and the relative IP address assigned by the DHCP Server.

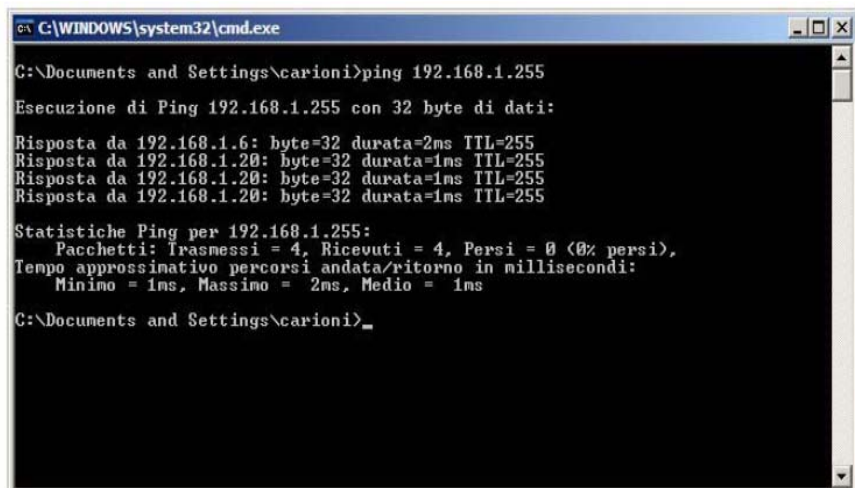


In case the user does not have access to the DHCP Server, the AP-ELP Box can be identified in the LAN by using the ARP command.

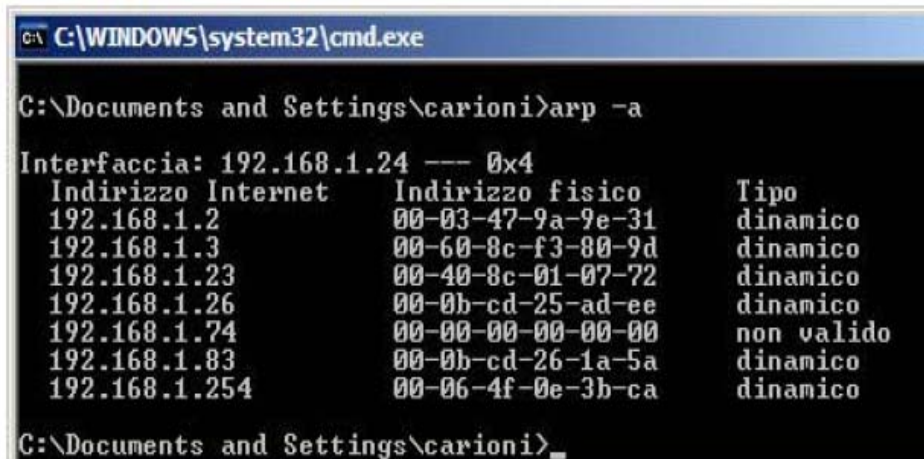
Please follow these steps when you do not have an DHCP server, or access to it:

1. Open a DOS shell on your Windows PC
2. Run the ping command in broadcasting mode in the current mask this way:

ping 192.168.1.255



3. Now examine the ARP table using the command `arp -a`
4. Find the AP-ELP Box MAC address (reported on the label on the bottom side of box) and the relative IP address assigned by DHCP Server.



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Documents and Settings\carioni>arp -a

Interfaccia: 192.168.1.24 --- 0x4
Indirizzo Internet      Indirizzo fisico      Tipo
192.168.1.2             00-03-47-9a-9e-31    dinamico
192.168.1.3             00-60-8c-f3-80-9d    dinamico
192.168.1.23            00-40-8c-01-07-72    dinamico
192.168.1.26            00-0b-cd-25-ad-ee    dinamico
192.168.1.74            00-00-00-00-00-00    non valido
192.168.1.83            00-0b-cd-26-1a-5a    dinamico
192.168.1.254           00-06-4f-0e-3b-ca    dinamico

C:\Documents and Settings\carioni>
```

LAN setting DHCP mode with Linux

In case of Linux environment the commands to run are the following:

- Open a terminal session
- `ping 255.255.255.255 -c 2 -b`
- Now examine the ARP table using the command `arp -a`
- Find the AP-ELP Box MAC address (reported on the label on the bottom side of box) and the relative IP address assigned by DHCP Server.

IP Address setting with arp command

In case the DHCP Server is not running or the LAN is not linked to it, the user can set the AP-ELP IP Address using the arp command. Please note the manual arp setting should be executed by an expert user, as the duplication of an IP address on the LAN can cause a LAN crash.

Open a DOS shell on the Windows PC (or a terminal session on Linux PC) and run the command in this way:

```
arp -s 192.168.1.56 00-aa-00-62-c6-09
```

Where 192.168.1.56 is the IP address which is assigned to the AP-ELP Box

00-aa-00-62-c6-09 is the unique AP-ELP Box MAC address; please identify it on the label on the bottom side of the box.

Ping now the AP-ELP Box 192.168.1.56 to check for any response.

Follow the instructions on page 13 to fix network parameters as Manual and adding IP, MASK, GATEWAY and BROADCAST.

The WebGUI

Once the IP address is settled by DHCP Server or by arp command the user can configure all of the other settings by using the AP-ELP Box graphical user interface (GUI).

Open a web browser type in the AP-ELP Box IP address on the address bar



AP-ELP PrintServer



LOGIN

USER :

PWD :

First time after the AP-ELP Box web is started, you can provide any username and any password of your choice. This username and password will be kept until a restore factory default (either with the hardware reset button or the webGUI) is performed.

After a successful login this page will be showed:



The menu allows the user to setup:

- Network settings
- Printer Settings
- Storage Management
- Firmware Management
- Log file
- Restore Factory Default
- Restart PrintServer
- Logout
- AP-ELP Management

Network communication setting, set IP address

Select the Network Setting link from the home screen, the following page will show up:

Host Name

Host Name

Host name: Name of the host assigned within the IP table.

IP Lookup Method

☒ DHCP

☐ Manual

IP Address	<input type="text" value="0.0.0.0"/>
Subnet Mask	<input type="text" value="255.255.255.255"/>
Gateway	<input type="text" value="0.0.0.0"/>
Broadcast	<input type="text" value="255.255.255.255"/>

IP lookup method DHCP: Select DHCP and the Server will automatically assign the IP address at next power reboot. If no DHCP server was found, the IP address will automatically fall back after 240 seconds to 192.0.0.192

Manual: select manual to assign the AP-ELP Box IP address and all of the other network parameters as subnet mask, gateway and broadcast address.

NTP

☐ Disabled

☒ Enabled

NTP Address:

Region:

Network Time Protocol: Select NTP to enable the automatic synchronization with a NTP server using port 123 as a default.

LAN Speed

☒ Auto

☐ 10 Half Duplex

☐ 10 Full Duplex

☐ 100 Half Duplex

☐ 100 Full Duplex

LAN Speed: Select AUTO or the correct LAN speed according to your LAN environment.

Save: Press Save and the LAN setting will be saved; please note the AP-ELP Box will automatically reboot once this button is pressed.

You need to reboot the box, after a change of the IP setting. It takes approximately tow minutes, until the box is up and running again. Don't forget to change the address you are referring to in your web browser.

Printer settings, receive and send ports

By selecting this menu, you will be able to select the how the AP-ELP Box will send the spool data to the target printer.

☐ lan2usb
☒ lan2lan

IP Address

Port

PjL ☒

☒ Log

Warning: Remember to restart the Print Server after the modifications.

AP-ELP Box receiver daemon listens on IP Port 9100 for raw transmission and on Port 515 from LPR clients (eg. BSD systems). In case of using LPR, the queue name can be set to any value of your choice (in this example <raw> is used):

Example: LPR -S192.168.1.27 -Praw myfile.prn

Print manager daemon:

lan2usb: in this case AP-ELP Box runs as a print server. If you connect a LAN cable and a USB printer the printer becomes a LAN printer.

lan2lan: In this case AP-ELP Box runs as a re-router and the data will be forwarded to another printer IP address. Select it and type in the target printer IP address. The protocol must be RAW format (normally port 9100).

pjl: This flag can be used to disable the outbound PjL support to the printer when lan2lan is choose. Some printers that not support the full PjL language set and the AP-ELP Box might block. In this case disable the support by un-checking this option.

Software log: Enables to generate a log file; the file size will be automatically erased once the size achieved is 40 KB.

Save: Press save and the software setting will be saved. Remember to go at home page end restart the AP-ELP Box.

A quick functional test

Independent which way AP-ELP receives the print data we recommend to send a test file first.

By selecting the menu AP-ELP Management this screen will popup:

AP-ELP v8.2 Home



Files to download from the stethos website (internet connection required):

Check for AP-ELP updates

Manual, latest Version (PDF viewer required)

Files to download from this appliance (no internet connection required):

Manual Version 8.2 (PDF viewer required)

Test printfile which can be sent to AP-ELP (ZIP unpacker required)

Download the AP-ELP test printfile and unzip it into a proper directory.

You can send the file ELPstatusPage.pcl to the AP-ELP Box either using IP port 9100 (also known as raw mode) or port 515 (also known as LPR/LPD mode).

Test using the LPD in the AP-ELP Box (port 515):

lpr -S<IP Address of the AP-ELP Box> -Praw ELPstatusPage.pcl

When your connected printer does start printing barcodes, the installation is verified and working ok.

Base firmware upgrade

This section is aimed for base firmware upgrades of the Linux Kernel of the AP-ELP box. The base firmware upgrade will not touch at all the ELP part of the box. Base firmware upgrades are always separate of ELP code upgrades.

There are two hardware versions of the AP-ELP box available:

- Old version (non-LX)
- New version (LX)

First you have to identify which version you want to upgrade. There are two ways to identify which hardware version the box has:

- a) There is a label on the bottom of the AP-ELP box which tells you the MAC Address and additional written information like “LX Version”. If that line is not present you can be sure, that the box is the “non-LX” Version.
- b) The initial screen of web interface tells you the current base firmware version and the hardware version.

The “LX Version” reports a “[LX]” in the firmware looks like this”:

oberon
SERVICE
beyond printing

AP-ELP PrintServer

stethos®

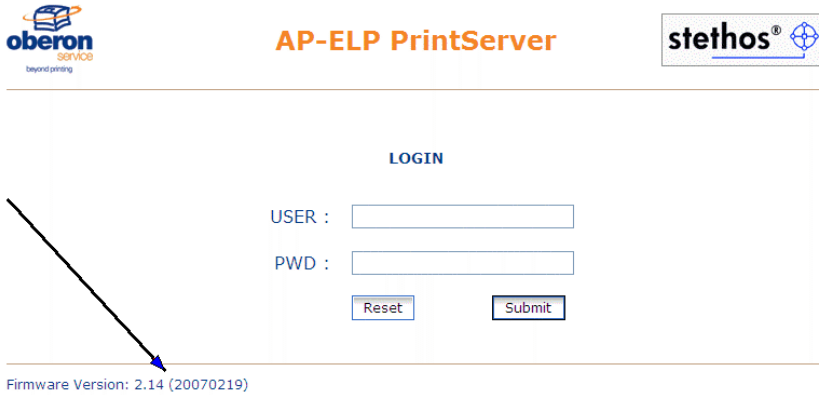
LOGIN

USER :

PWD :

Firmware Version: 2.14-[LX] (20070219)^¹

The “non-LX Version” is omitting the “[LX]” in the firmware information and looks like this”:



AP-ELP PrintServer

LOGIN

USER :

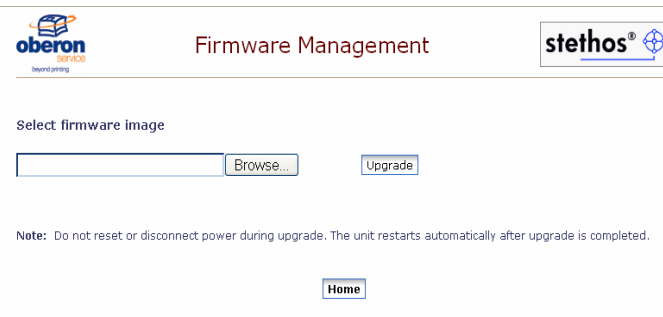
PWD :

Firmware Version: 2.14 (20070219)

Base firmware bundles are available in two different kinds:

a) As BINARY (extension is normally .img) files for web upload.

For example the base firmware version 2.14 file is either “apelp-2.14-lx.img” for “LX Version” of hardware or “apelp-2.14.img” for “non-LX Version” of hardware.



Firmware Management

Select firmware image

Note: Do not reset or disconnect power during upgrade. The unit restarts automatically after upgrade is completed.

Place the provided image file in a specific directory of your PC, open the browser and type in the AP-ELP Box IP address select Firmware Management and then browse for the firmware file.

Select the image update file and then press Upgrade; this process will update AP-ELP Box and automatically reboot after it's completed.

b) As RFU (remote firmware update) file for direct copy

For example the base firmware version 2.14 file is either “apelp-2.14-lx.rfu” for “LX Version” of hardware or “apelp-2.14.rfu” for “non-LX Version” of hardware.

You can either send the new firmware to the box via port 9100 or via port 515. An example how to send the firmware via port 515 can be like the following:

```
lpr -S<IP Address of the AP-ELP Box> -Praw NewFirmware.rfu
```

This process will update AP-ELP Box and automatically reboot after it's completed.

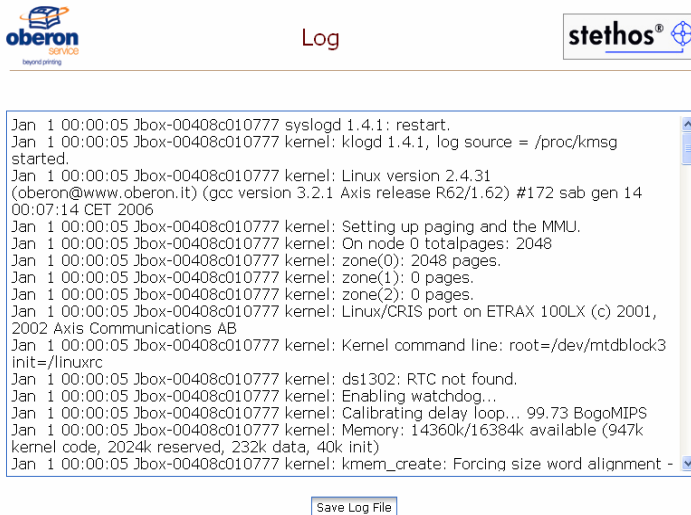
Important information:

After base firmware upgrade you must re-login the web interface and invoke a “Restore Factory Default” (AP-ELP Box configuration will be lost, but the ELP content will remain untouched).

System Log

If the Log dialog box on Software Setting Menu is selected, AP-ELP Box will generate a log file.

In case the user needs support, the log file can be saved to a target txt file and sent to your supplier of the AP-ELP Box.



LED function

The AP-ELP Box is equipped with 3 LED's: Green, yellow and red. These LED's do help to check the status of the AP-ELP appliance.

Green: Power

ON of the box is correctly receiving power through the power supply.

Yellow: Network/LAN Activity

Normally is blinking when connected and configured correctly in the LAN.

Red: Printer Activity

Normally this LED is OFF when AP-ELP is not sending data to the printer.

During normal send operations it is blinking fast and when an error occurs with the printer (USB / LAN) it remains ON until the Printer error is cleared.

Restore Factory Default

This section gives you the capability to reset the AP-ELP Box to its factory default configuration.

This procedure will:

- erase the WEB interface User and Password
- set network configuration to DHCP mode (cleaning previous configured address)
- set printer configuration to LAN2USB

The AP-ELP Box will reboot automatically when this option is selected.

It is possible to perform a “Restore Factory Default” using the front button located at the right of green LED.

Follow these steps:

- Power off the AP-ELP Box
- While pressing the button, apply power to AP-ELP Box keeping the button pressed all the time
- After a while the red LED will be on
- Keep the button pressed until the red LED turns off, then the button can be released

Hardware specification

AP-ELP box is designed around a RISC 32Bit Axis processor and runs at 100 MHz. The ELP code storage is on a USB stick up to 2GB (by default the box is shipped with 32MB, 64MB or 128MB USB stick (depending on the date of purchase of the box). The log of the AP-ELP Box will tell you the size of the USB stick when it's mounted to the operating system of the box.

The operative RAM size is 16MB. AP-ELP Box needs an external power supply with a 5 to 7.5 voltage range.

Hardware support

For any support request please use the following contact information:

Oberon Service srl
Via Meda 28
I-20141 Milan
Italy
Phone: + 39 02 84800612
Fax: + 30 02 84800538
e-mail: support@oberon.it
info@oberon.it

ELP installation

There is nothing to do here. AP-ELP comes fully preconfigured with the ELP code pre-installed in the box.

ELP configuration

PCL Bar-coding:

No configuration is needed. By default ELP fully emulates the industry standard for Laser printer barcode printing, but with some nice extensions, which are listed in the manual.

Postscript Bar-coding:

This is an extension to the standard printing, and can be configured using the Windows configuration tool.

All other functionalities need to be configured in 3 steps:

- Use the Windows PPADMIN tool to setup the required rules
- Test the rules
- Download the configuration files to the AP-ELP or put the proper ELP command into the data stream.

The WebGUI

Once the IP address is settled by DHCP Server or by arp command the user can configure all of the other settings by using the AP-ELP GUI.

Open a browser on Windows or Linux PC and type in the AP-ELP IP address, perform a login and select the AP-ELP Management.

AP-ELP v8.2 Home



Files to download from the stethos website (internet connection required):

[Check for AP-ELP updates](#)

[Manual, latest Version \(PDF viewer required\)](#)

Files to download from this appliance (no internet connection required):

[Manual Version 8.2 \(PDF viewer required\)](#)

[Test printfile which can be sent to AP-ELP \(ZIP unpacker required\)](#)

We recommend using this page to check if there is a newer version of the AP-ELP firmware code available (internet connection required).

Firmware upgrade

This section is aimed for ELP firmware upgrades of the AP-ELP box. The ELP firmware upgrade will not touch at all the base firmware of the box. ELP firmware upgrades are always separate of base firmware code upgrades.

ELP firmware upgrades are released as RFU (remote firmware update) file for direct copy

lpr -S<IP Address of the AP-ELP Box> -Praw NewFirmware.rfu

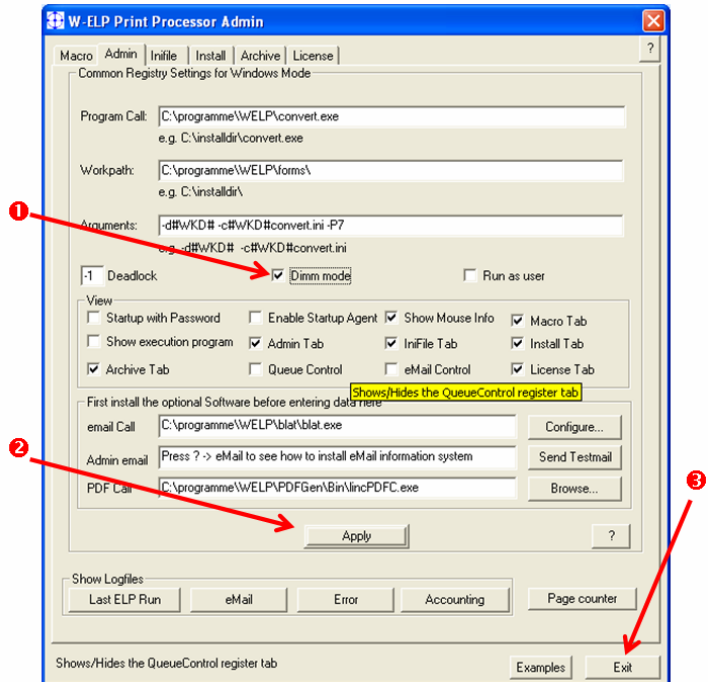
There is no reboot needed after it's completed. The upgrade is instantly active.

The EPL firmware is displayed on the WebGUI of the box after you login and hit the icon "AP-ELP Management".

Installation and configuration of the Windows W-ELP software

Download the configuration software from www.stethos.com/e_welp.htm (English) or www.stethos.com/d_welp.htm (German)

Install it, and run the PPAAdmin Control Centre. In the first step, you need to set the software into the AP-ELP Emulation mode, as the pure Windows part does support more functionality. This is to prevent you to define rules, which may not apply in the AP-ELP version.



1. Mark the DIMM version option
2. Apply the new setting
3. Exit the PPAAdmin software
4. Restart the software to activate the changes.
Now the DIMM / AP-ELP Emulation mode is active.

For first steps please click on the top right question mark and implement your rules.

Download the rules and forms to AP-ELP

Once the settings are made and everything is working you need to download the configuration to the AP-ELP Box.

Normally there are 2 types of files downloaded form the WELP\forms directory:

convert.ini Your rules configuration file.

Other linked ini files: In rare cases, additional ruled ini-files may be needed, using the ini-file key iniFile=.... In the convert.ini file:
Before downloading the convert.ini in this case, you need to change the iniFile= statements from the Windows based path to the AP-ELP Box based path:
c:\programme\welp\forms\xxxx.ini to
/mnt/usbdisk/runs/xxxx.ini

Forms files *.mac. Please download only the mac files you have created.

IMPORTANT: ALL FILENAMES ON THE AP-ELP BOX NEED TO BE STORED IN lower case!

Select file to download

<input type="text"/>	Durchsuchen...	Store
----------------------	----------------	-------

File on Print Server

Location : runs/

<input type="checkbox"/>		..
<input type="checkbox"/>		ocr_a1.mac
<input type="checkbox"/>		elp
<input type="checkbox"/>		ocr_b.mac
<input type="checkbox"/>		ocr_bsc.mac

In order to download the files please open your Browser and type in the TCP/IP address of your box and browse to the **runs** folder:

Select each file you want to transfer normally out of the c:\programme\welp\forms and transfer it to the AP-ELP box.

The next job arriving will be treated according the defined rules.

Declarations of conformity

We,

stethos GmbH
Weimarer Str. 48
71065 Sindelfingen
Germany
Phone: +49 7031 860910
Fax: +49 7031 871444
e-mail: support@stethos.com
info@stethos.com

declare under our sole responsibility that the product

AP-ELP, ELP Appliance

to which this declaration relates, are in conformity with the following standards and/or other normative documents.



PN – EN 55022 (10-2000)
PN – EN 55024 (09-2000)
FCC Part 15 Section 209



We hereby declare that the above named product is in conformity with the essential requirements and other relevant provisions of Telecommunication directive (Dz. U.2000, nr 73 pos. 852). The technical documentation relevant to the above equipment will be held at

stethos GmbH
Weimarer Str. 48
71065 Sindelfingen
Germany

Stefan Schmidt
(Name)

Marketing Manager
(Title)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stefan Schmidt'.

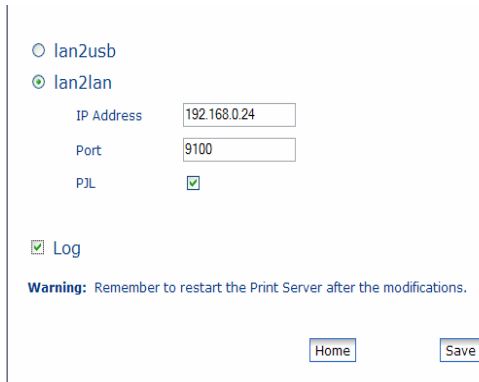
(Signature)

March 6th, 2006
(Date)

Support

If you encounter any problems with the box, please follow the steps described below:

- Make sure that the log of the box is activated (in the printer settings):



The screenshot shows a configuration window for a printer. It has two radio buttons at the top: 'lan2usb' and 'lan2lan'. The 'lan2lan' option is selected. Below these are three input fields: 'IP Address' with the value '192.168.0.24', 'Port' with the value '9100', and 'PJL' with a checked checkbox. Below the input fields is a 'Log' checkbox, which is also checked. A warning message states: 'Warning: Remember to restart the Print Server after the modifications.' At the bottom right, there are two buttons: 'Home' and 'Save'.

- Restart the print server.
- Download the current convert.ini to your local machine:
 - o Go to storage management
 - o Click on “runs”
 - o Click on the file and select “download”



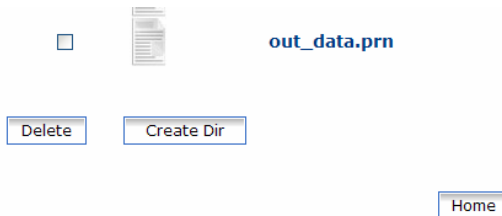
- Add the following commands to your downloaded convert.ini:

```
Log_Mode=101
Debug_OutData=ON
Debug_InData=ON
```

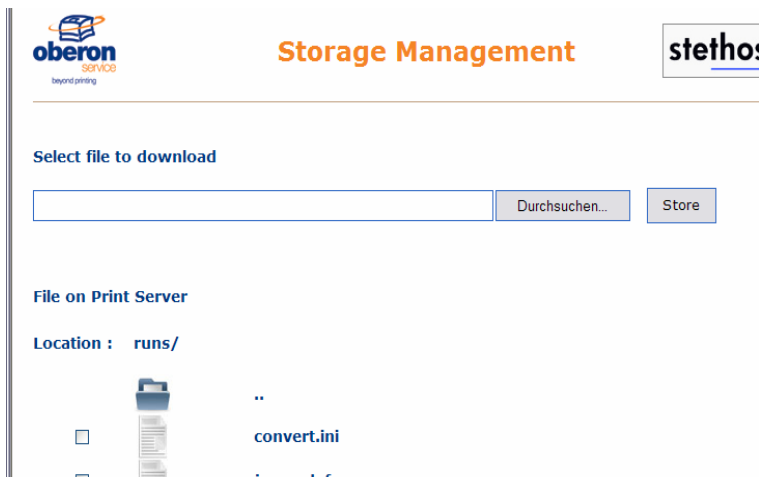
- Mark the old ini-file:



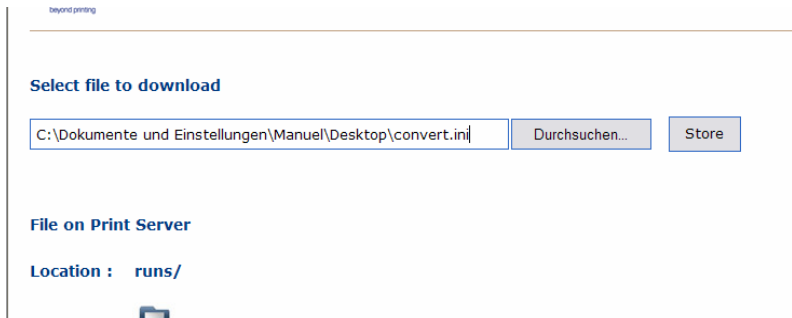
- And then press the delete-button at the bottom of the page:



- Upload the convert.ini to your runs-folder (storage management) and store it like this:
Go to Storage Management / runs.
Select the file to download (to the box) by pressing the search-button (in German: “Durchsuchen”).



Now choose the new convert.ini within the file dialog of your operating system and click on open.




beyond printing

Select file to download

C:\Dokumente und Einstellungen\Manuel\Desktop\convert.ini

File on Print Server

Location : runs/ 

And then hit the store button.

- Process a print job.
- Download (to your local machine) and send us the following files:
convert.ini, in_data.prn, out_data.prn, log_file.txt, your print job and all your used macro files from storage management/runs

For any support request please use the following contact information

Please open the PPAdmin software -> License Tab -> about to find your local distributor or contact:

stethos GmbH
Weimarer Str. 48
71065 Sindelfingen
Germany
Phone: + 49 7031 860910
Fax: + 49 7031 871444
e-mail: support@stethos.com
info@stethos.com

Product numbers and options

AP-ELP can be ordered through your local distributor. If you need help to find a reseller just let stethos know.

Product No	Description
ELPAP001	AP-ELP appliance for 1 printer (either networked or USB)
ELPAP002	USB Cable from AP-ELP Box (Type-A) to printer (Type-B)
ELPAP003	Cable from AP-ELP Box (USB Type-A) to printer (Centronics)
ELPAP004	Gender changer from Centronics (female) to mini Centronics
ELPAP011	1 year maintenance*
ELPAP012	2 years maintenance*
ELPAP013	3 years maintenance *
ELPAP014	4 years maintenance *
ELPAP015	5 years maintenance *

*Check your supplier for terms and conditions of the maintenance option